

Final Meeting Notes
LCR MSCP Steering Committee Meeting
June 22, 2022

Attending Via Microsoft Teams

Greg Adams – Central Arizona Water Conservation District
Burt Bell – Palo Verde Irrigation District
Dee Bradshaw – The Metropolitan District of Southern California
Alan Butler – Bureau of Reclamation
Dennis Davis – San Diego County Water Authority
Laura Dye – Colorado River Commission
JR Echard – Palo Verde Irrigation District
Chase Ehlo – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Alexander Funk – California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Curt Gill – Arizona Game and Fish Department
Chris Harris – Colorado River Board of California
Emily Higuera – Arizona Department of Water Resources
Ben Jensen – DOI – Office of the Solicitor
Kristen Johnson – Arizona Department of Water Resources
Vineetha Kartha – Central Arizona Project
Jamie Kelley – Mohave County Water Authority
Jimmy Knowles – Bureau of Reclamation
Kit Lai – The Metropolitan District of Southern California
Bill Lamb – QuadState Local Governments Authority
Mark Lamb – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Aaron Mead – The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Terry Murphy – Bureau of Reclamation
Jessica Neuwerth – Colorado River Board of California
Wade Noble – Yuma Area Irrigation Districts
William Patterson – Coachella Valley Water District
Bill Plummer – City of Somerton
Shana Rapoport – Colorado River Board of California
Carrie Ronning – Bureau of Reclamation
Alexi Schnell – San Diego County Water Authority
Branden Senger – Nevada Department of Wildlife
Stevie Sharp – Imperial Irrigation District
Nicole Solano – Southern California Public Power Authority
Catherine Stites – The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
John Swett – Bureau of Reclamation
Ruth Valencia – Salt River Project
Tyler Williford – Arizona Game and Fish Department

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Introductions

The virtual meeting was convened on Teams at 9:32 a.m. by Vice Chair Vineetha Kartha. The list of those attending virtually and via conference call was reviewed by Carrie Ronning. Vineetha Kartha chaired the meeting.

Review of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and there were no changes.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

Approve April 27, 2022 Meeting Notes

The April 27, 2022 meeting notes were approved with no changes (Moved by Dee Bradshaw, seconded by Jessica Neuwerth, and adopted by consensus).

WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

Final Implementation Report, FY2023 Work Plan and Budget, FY 2021 Accomplishment Report (FY2023 Work Plan)

John Swett noted that the draft FY2023 Work Plan was presented to the Steering Committee at the April 27th meeting. Comments were due by May 9th and a Work Group meeting was held on May 11th and 12th to review the document and receive comments. The only significant changes that occurred between the draft and final work plans were the inclusion of Attachment A, the letter from Central Arizona Water Conservation District establishing the final inflation rate, and Attachment B, the Description of Take tables. The final inflation rate for FY2023 is 1.743 and is the same as the preliminary rate used in the draft FY2023 Work Plan. The non-federal share of the costs will be \$17,414,313, with adjusted amounts for California \$8,248,331.36, Arizona \$5,271,228.53, and Nevada \$3,894,753.11.

John Swett then presented the resolution for Steering Committee approval of the final FY2023 Work Plan.

Resolution 22-001 “Review and Recommendation FY2023 Work Plan and Budget, FY2021 Accomplishment Report”

Move that the LCR MSCP Steering Committee approve, by consensus, the *Final Implementation Report, Fiscal Year 2023 Work Plan and Budget, Fiscal Year 2021 Accomplishment Report* for \$23,951,802 and encourage the LCR MSCP Program Manager to submit the approved Final Implementation Report to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for consistency review (Moved by Ruth Valencia, seconded by Wade Noble, and adopted by consensus).

PROCESS/PROGRAM UPDATES

John Swett provided a brief update on Reclamation’s Section 7 consultation. This consultation would cover the additional reductions in flow in Reaches 2 and 3 projected to occur from conserving water in Lake Mead in accordance with the 500+ Plan. Formal consultation was initiated on April 5, 2022. The consultation is still on schedule and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is expecting to complete the draft Biological Opinion in mid-August 2022. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will contact Reclamation if there are any questions. No big issues have been raised yet.

GENERAL

Alan Butler, with the Bureau of Reclamation’s Boulder Canyon Operations Office, provided an update on the hydrology of the river titled “Colorado River System Mid-term Projections”. This included the updated 5-year projections following the recent actions that have been taken to protect water elevations at Glen Canyon Dam and changes in runoff. Projections indicate that additional actions will need to occur to maintain Powell at either elevation 3525’ or 3500’ and Lake Mead at elevation 1020’ or 1000’ (see presentation posted on www.lcrmscp.gov). John Swett and Chris Harris discussed that it is likely that we will need additional consultation to cover the reductions in flow that would occur from actions taken to maintain Lake Mead and Powell at those elevations based on the inflows projected in the models. It exceeds the reduction in flow currently covered under the LCR MSCP and the proposed increase in reduction of flow in Reclamation’s Section 7 consultation initiated on April 5, 2022.

John Swett noted that the next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2022. He said that a Work Group meeting would be scheduled about a month prior if there are any items that require discussion before the Steering Committee meeting.

SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS

Vineetha Kartha noted that the Steering Committee took action on two items, approving the April 27, 2022 meeting notes and the FY2023 Work Plan.

Prior to adjourning the meeting, John Swett announced his retirement. His last day with Reclamation and the LCR MSCP will be July 30, 2022. Many members of the Steering Committee thanked him for his service, reflected on his contributions to the program since the planning stages of the LCR MSCP, and wished him well on his upcoming retirement.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 am.